

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An induction heating apparatus for heating can lid workpieces moving through said apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

a tube in said housing defining a generally enclosed space in said housing through which the workpieces travel as they move through said apparatus, said tube having an inlet end for receiving workpieces an outlet end for discharging workpieces; an inlet hub that is connected to said housing and that supports said tube inlet end, and an outlet hub that is connected to said housing and that supports said tube outlet end;

an induction coil for heating the workpieces as they move through said enclosed space;

an air inlet in said inlet hub ~~tube~~ for enabling air to flow into said enclosed space;

an air outlet in said outlet hub that is in fluid communication with a suction device ~~tube~~ for enabling air to ~~flow~~ be suctioned out of said enclosed space to the exterior of said housing; and

~~a fan operative to move air through said enclosed space between said air inlet and said air outlet;~~

~~wherein said air inlet in said tube enables air to flow from the interior of said housing into said enclosed space.~~

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said suction device comprises fan ~~is~~ a suction fan connected with said air outlet and operative to draw air through said enclosed space.

3. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 2 wherein said housing is pressurized with heated air from power and control circuitry associated with said induction coil.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim 2 ~~3~~ wherein said suction fan is located in the path of air flow from said air outlet and is operative to draw air out of said air outlet.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim 3 ~~4~~ further including a heater located inside said housing ~~at said air inlet of said tube~~ for heating air flowing into said tube through said inlet hub.

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 ~~wherein said housing has opposite end walls for supporting said tube, each one of said end walls having a support member on which a respective end of said tube rests to block downward movement of said tube end, each one of said end walls having~~ further comprising a moveable stop member movably connected with said end wall at a location above said tube end to block upward movement of said tube end out of engagement with one of said inlet hub and outlet hub, said stop member being moveable to a position which permits said tube to move out of engagement with said one of said inlet hub and outlet hub so that said tube can be removed ~~being removable from said housing by lifting upward out of said housing.~~

7. (Currently amended) An induction heating apparatus for heating workpieces, comprising:

housing; a tube in said housing defining a generally enclosed space in said housing through which the workpieces travel as they move through said apparatus;

an induction coil for heating the workpieces as they move through said apparatus;

an air inlet for enabling air to flow into said enclosed space ~~from the interior of said housing;~~

an air outlet for enabling air to flow out of said enclosed space to the interior of said housing; and

a heater adjacent said air inlet for heating air flowing into through said air inlet and through said enclosed space.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim 7 wherein said heater is located inside said housing at said air inlet of said tube to heat air flowing into said enclosed space from said housing interior.

9. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 7 wherein said heater is an open coil heater having an air flow passage and a plurality of heating coils extending across said air flow passage.

10. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein said heater is operative to heat the air flowing through said air inlet to a temperature of at least 50 degrees C.

11. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 9 wherein said heater is operative to heat the air flowing through said air inlet to a temperature of about 60 degrees C.

12. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 7 further including a first fan for pushing air into said enclosed space and a second fan for drawing air out of said enclosed space.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim 7 wherein said housing has opposite end walls for supporting said tube, each one of said end walls having a support member on which a respective end of said tube rests to block downward movement of said tube end, each one of said end walls having a movable stop member ~~movably connected with said end wall at a location above said tube end~~ to block upward movement of said tube end, said tube being removable from said housing by lifting upward out of said housing when said stop member is in a position that permits said upward movement.

14. (Currently amended) An induction heating apparatus for heating workpieces, comprising: a housing through which workpieces move as they are heated; a tube supported in said housing, said tube defining a passage through which workpieces move, said tube having around it an induction coil for heating the workpieces as they move through said tube, said housing having opposite end walls for supporting said tube, each one of said end walls having a support member on which a respective end of said tube rests to block downward movement of said tube end, further comprising a moveable stop member to block movement of said tube end out of engagement with one of said support members, said stop member being moveable to a position which permits said tube to move out of engagement with said support member so that said tube can be removed from said housing ~~each of said end walls having a stop member moveably connected with said end wall at a location above said tube end to block upward movement of said tube ends, said tube being removable from said housing upon movement of said stop member.~~

15. (Currently Amended) An induction heating apparatus as set forth in claim 14 wherein said housing has a top part which when open enables removal of said tube from ~~the top of~~ said housing.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim ~~14~~ 15 ~~wherein said~~ comprising two stop members to block movement of said tube ends out of engagement with their respective support members ~~can be disconnected from said end walls to enable upward movement of said tube relative to said housing for removal of said tube from said housing.~~

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim 16 wherein said each one of said stop members is a bolt that is threadably ~~threadedly~~ engaged with an ~~said~~ end wall.

18. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 14 wherein said tube ends have a circular configuration and said support members on said end wall have a semi-circular configuration that is concave upward.

19-23. Canceled.

24. (Currently Amended) An induction heating apparatus for heating workpieces, comprising:

a cabinet through which workpieces move as they are heated, said cabinet having a plurality of walls ~~including first and second opposite end walls~~, said walls of said cabinet defining an opening ~~on the top~~ of said cabinet;

a tube ~~supported on said opposite end walls of said cabinet~~, said tube defining a passage through which workpieces move, said tube having around it an induction coil for heating the workpieces as they move through said tube, and

a cover for said cabinet, ~~said cover being hingedly connected to said walls of said cabinet~~, said cover being movable between a closed position for closing said cabinet opening and an open position in which said ~~top~~ opening of said cabinet is open to enable removal of said tube through said ~~top~~ opening of said cabinet;

said tube having first and second ends that are supported by first and second hubs that are connected to said cabinet to block downward movement of said tube within said cabinet, and a stop member to block upward movement of said tube within said cabinet when said movable stop member is in a first position and said upward movement of said tube is enabled when said movable stop member is in a second position.

25. Canceled.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim ~~24~~ 25 wherein each one of said tube ends has a circular configuration and said hubs ~~support members on said end walls~~ each have a semi-circular configuration that is concave upward.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as set forth in claim 25 wherein said stop members are bolts ~~that are threadedly engaged with said end walls~~.

28-51. Canceled.

52. (New) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said inlet hub and said outlet hub are inside said housing.

53. (New) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said tube rests on said hubs and is retained thereon by gravity, said tube being removable from said hubs by lifting said tube upward from said hubs.

54. (New) An apparatus as set forth in claim 53 comprising a movable stop member that prevents upward movement of said tube from said hubs, said tube being removable from said hubs after said stop member is moved to a position that permits said tube to be removed from said hubs.

55. (New) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 comprising a temperature sensor disposed at said outlet end of said tube, wherein workpieces contact said temperature sensor as they pass through said outlet end of said tube.

56. (New) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 comprising a non-contact motion sensor disposed near said tube inlet end.

57. (New) An apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein said air inlet enables air to flow from said housing interior into said enclosed space.